

balancing of these competing concerns is critical, and one that the Congress, and particularly the Judiciary Committee, must take an active role.

I think that there is no question that making sure the privacy policies and practices of the Federal Government is important. In addition, we should make sure that the privacy laws governing the Federal Government's use of personally identifiable information work effectively. This is an important issue that we can both work together to make happen, and if I remember correctly, it is one that Attorney General Ashcroft has similar concerns about.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now be in a period of morning business with Senators speaking for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE VISIT OF SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT KIM DAE JUNG

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I want to share with my colleagues a letter that Representatives GEPHARDT, LANTOS, SKELTON, Senators BIDEN and LEVIN, and I recently sent to President Bush. The letter outlines our support for efforts to work with our South Korean friends to address the threats to our security emanating from North Korea.

Like President Bush, we harbor no illusions about the challenges posed by the North Korean government. To say North Korea's actions the past several decades have greatly troubled the United States and the world is an understatement. However, we also recognize that we cannot simply ignore the challenges the current regime poses for the international community; the stakes, which include the proliferation of missile technology, are simply too high.

Last week Secretary Powell publicly recognized that the Clinton Administration made progress in addressing the threats posed by North Korea. We agree with that assessment. We believe the record shows that the Clinton Administration fell just short of reaching a comprehensive agreement with the North Koreans that would have dramatically reduced tensions between the two Koreas and between North Korea and the rest of the world.

Given the urgency of these threats and the fact that a breakthrough appeared imminent just months ago, it is in the U.S. national interest to pursue additional discussions with the North Koreans. Only by allowing our negotiators to sit down with their North Korean counterparts will we be able to determine whether that recent progress contains the seeds of a com-

prehensive and verifiable agreement with North Korea.

Let us be clear. The burden here is on the North Koreans to prove that they will join the international community. We may find that a deal is not possible. But to walk away from that effort now, without knowing whether a deal is possible, is to pass up an opportunity to address a principal threat to the United States and to our friends in the region, South Korea chief among them.

We urge the President to work with President Kim and our South Korean friends—with our strong support—to test North Korea's commitment to peace through a comprehensive and verifiable agreement on its nuclear and missile activity. The stakes are too high and the issues too urgent to do otherwise.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter dated March 6, 2001.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, March 6, 2001.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing in regard to your upcoming meeting with Republic of Korea President Kim Dae Jung. Korea is a steadfast ally in a strategic part of the world, and we are pleased you will meet with President Kim early in your administration.

We understand that President Kim's efforts toward rapprochement with North Korea will be a subject of your meeting. In the context of those efforts, late last year North Korea suggested it may be ready to permanently address U.S. and allied concerns regarding its nuclear and missile capability—a major destabilizing force in East Asia and a principal threat to the security of the U.S. and its allies in the region.

Your meeting with President Kim offers an opportunity to stand with our South Korean friends to test whether North Korea is indeed committed to peace. Given North Korea's often far-reaching demands and record of disregarding international norms, we are under no illusions about the difficulty of getting comprehensive and verifiable agreements with North Korea that address our concerns about its current and future nuclear and ballistic missile activities. We believe, however, the stakes are high and the issues involved demand urgent attention, and it is evident to us that the continued engagement of the U.S. Government on this matter could serve to reduce a serious potential threat to our national security.

We therefore hope you thoroughly explore the possibility of reaching agreements that are in our national interest, and ask that you clearly demonstrate to President Kim our government's ongoing commitment to working constructively with the Republic of Korea to confront this major strategic challenge.

Should you choose this path to work with the Republic of Korea to address these critical concerns, we stand ready to support you.

Sincerely,

SEN. TOM DASCHLE,
Senate Democratic
Leader.

REP. RICHARD GEPHARDT,
House Democratic
Leader.

SEN. JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.,
Ranking Member Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

REP. TOM LANTOS,
Ranking Member House International Relations Committee.

SEN. CARL LEVIN,
Ranking Member Senate Armed Services Committee.

REP. IKE SKELTON,
Ranking Member House Armed Services Committee.

SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF INDIAN EARTHQUAKE

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to the Indian people for the recent loss of life and property due to the recent earthquake in their country. On January 26, the people of Gujarat in western India were hit with an earthquake the size and devastation of that which hit San Francisco in 1906. The earthquake in Gujarat killed more than 30,000, injured more than 100,000, and displaced more than a half million men, women, and children. My thoughts and prayers, and those of many Americans, are with them at this difficult time.

The people of India have been valuable friends to America, and a number of Indians call this country their home. Unfortunately, tragic events like these show how quickly loved ones and friends can be taken from us. However, it is also through despair and tears that people often find humanity and caring.

The damage to the region is expected to exceed \$5.5 billion. In the face of such a catastrophe, it is imperative that the global community actively respond. I am heartened to see the outpouring of assistance that nations around the globe, and countless non-governmental organizations, have offered to India. Our own government will continue to offer our support to the victims of this earthquake, and I encourage President Bush to offer any needed additional assistance as they begin the process of rebuilding shattered homes and lives.

THE DEPARTURE OF A DEAR FRIEND, KRISTINE "IVO" IVERSON

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, one of my very dear staffers is about to leave the Senate, a wonderful woman who has given a great deal of her time and love—indeed, a great deal of her life—to me, my office, the citizens of Utah, the county, and indeed, to this grand and honored institution, the Senate of the United States.

It is almost impossible for me to believe, but, after nearly a quarter of a